

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254164

PASS TO RICHARD J. BLOOMFIELD

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 7825 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO GUAYAQUIL

BOGOTA CARACAS LIMA SAN JOSE DATED 16 NOV 74

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, OAS, US, CU

SUBJ: QUITO OAS MEETING: POST-CONFERENCE MOOED

REF: QUITO 7514

1. SUMMARY: POST-MFM MOOD IN QUITO APPEARS TO BE ONE OF
SUBDUED RESIGNATION OVER CONFERENCE RESULTS. PREVAILING
VIEW OF LOCAL COMMENTATORS APPEARS TO BE THAT RESPONSIBILITY
FOR FAILURE OF MFM TO REACH TWO-THIRDS VOTE NECESSARY TO
LIFT CUBA SANCTIONS RESTS SQUARELY WITH RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORS.
US POSTURE DURING CONFERENCE HAS DRAWN PRACTICALLY NO LOCAL
CRITICISM AND IN SOME INSTANCES HAS BEEN WARMLY APPLAUDED.
END SUMMARY.

2. POST-MFM MOOD IN QUITO APPEARS TO BE ONE OF SUBDUED
RESIGNATION OVER CONFERENCE RESULTS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT
YET GONE OVER CONFERENCE RESULTS BLOW-BY-BLOW WITH
FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, WE KNOW THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED
BY OUTCOME. GOE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD LET IT BE KNOWN
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ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, INCLUDING IN HIS CORRESPONDENCE

WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, THAT QUITO HAD UNDERTAKEN TO HOST MFM ON ASSUMPTION THAT CONFERENCE WOULD BE "SUCCESSFUL". SUCCESS, IN GOE EYES, WOULD HAVE BEEN A POSITIVE VOTE TO LIFT SANCTIONS OR A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION WHEREBY EACH MEMBER STATE WOULD HAVE BEEN FREED TO DECIDE ON ITS OWN WHETHER OR NOT TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA. BUT GOE FRUSTRATION OVER CONFERENCE RESULTS IS PROBABLY NOWHERE NEAR AS GREAT AS THAT OF CO-SPONSORS; IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GOE WILL NOW TAKE ANY UNILATERAL STEPS ON CUBA ISSUE, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT TERM; AND, IF ANY CONCERN PREVAILS AT THIS TIME, IT IS TO AVOID BEING TARRED WITH BLAME FOR CONFERENCE OUTCOME.

3. LOCAL PRESS COMMENTARY IN AFTERMATH OF MFM HAS BEEN LOW-KEY AND NON-RECRIMINATORY IN TONE. BOTH GOE AND US HAVE ESCAPED SEVERE CRITICISM, AND IN FACT FROM SOME QUARTERS DRAWN STRONG PRAISE.

4. PERHAPS MOST CONSTRUCTIVE PRESS COMMENTARY HAS APPEARED IN QUITO'S MORNING DAILY EL TIEMPO. NOVEMBER 14 EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT CONFERENCE WAS CONVENED WITH INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION TO ASSURE NECESSARY FOURTEEN VOTES AND THAT CO-SPONSORS CLEARLY HADN'T DONE THEIR HOMEWORK. EDITORIAL ALSO DISMISSED ARGUMENT ADVANCED BY SOME THAT FAILURE TO ACHIEVE FOURTEEN VOTES SPELLED DOOM OF OAS ORGANIZATION. ALTHOUGH QUITO EVENTS WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT A SOURCE OF STRENGTH, THEY MERELY REPRESENTED ANOTHER EPISODE IN INTER-AMERICAN LIFE AND EL TIEMPO AFFIRMS ITS HOPE THAT MEMBER STATES WILL ADHERE TO RIO TREATY AND AVOID UNILATERAL ACTION.

5. IN COLUMN APPEARING IN EL TIEMPO SAME DAY, COMMENTATOR PABLO DE LA ENCINA DEFENDS US POSTURE AT CONFERENCE AND ROUNDLY CONDEMNS THOSE WHO HAVE IN THE PAST RESENTED OUR TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE BUT NOW BLAME US FOR NOT HAVING RESORTED TO IT. THIS LINE WAS ECHOED BY ANOTHER EL TIEMPO COMMENTATOR, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JULIO PRADO, WHO IN NOVEMBER 15 COLUMN, ALSO CASTS BLAME FOR CONFERENCE OUTCOME ON THREE CO-SPONSORING

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FORIEGN MINISTERS. PRADO SAYS HE LEARNED DIRECTLY FROM NE CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER (GUATEMALA) THAT FACIO HAD ASSUMED HIS COUNTRY'S POSITIVE VOTE WHEREAS IN FACT FACIO HAD NEVER DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIM DIRECTLY.

6. PUTTING IN A GOOD WORD FOR HIS OWN FOREIGN MINISTER, PRADO ADDS THAT ECUADOR'S FOREIGN MINISTRY DID NOT

PARTICIPATE IN CO-SPONSORS' MISCALCULATIONS, CONFINING ITSELF TO EXPRESSING GOE POSITION, AVOIDING PREDICTIONS AND HOPING FOR FOURTEEN VOTES. PRADO PRAISED MINISTRY FOR EXCELLENT CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS. HIS COLUMN CONCLUDES WITH WARNING THAT QUITO MEETING DEMONSTRATED URGENT NEED FOR REVISION OF OAS SYSTEM, STARTING WITH ITS VOTING PROCEDURES.

7. OTHER MAJOR QUITO DAILY, EL COMERCIO, HAS COMMENTED SUBSTANTIALLY LESS OF MFM. PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF NOVEMBER 13 COMERCIO EDITORIAL WAS INEQUITY OF TWO-THIRDS VOTING PROCEDURE. COMERCIO PROTESTS THAT MINORITY OF THREE COUNTRIES, SUPPORTED BY SIX ABSTENTIONS WAS ABLE TO BLOCK WILL OF MAJORITY AND, LIKE PRADO, CALLS FOR A REVISION OF THIS PART OF RIO TREATY.

8. PRIVATE COMMENT HAS INCLUDED CONGRATULATIONS FROM A NUMBER OF ECUADOREAN BUSINESSMEN TO DCM ON ROLE OF U.S. AT CONFERENCE. AIR FORCE LT. COL. CARRERA, VICE MANAGER OF CEPE, ECUADOREAN STATE PETROLEUM COMPANY, BEFORE DEPARTURE ON IV GRANT TO U.S., TOLD DCM THAT MANY AIR FORCE OFFICERS WERE PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF MEETING BECAUSE OF MEMORY OF COLLEAGUE WHO WAS MURDERED BY HIJACKER OF AIR FORCE PLANE ENROUTE TO CUBA SOME YEARS AGO.

9. ONE FINAL NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF POST-MFM MOOD HAS BEEN REACTION TO ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA INAUGURAL SPEECH (QUITO 7588). PRIVATELY, A NUMBER OF FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED EMBARRASSMENT THAT RODRIGUEZ SPEECH HAD SUCH STRONG ANTI-US OVERTONES AND FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES STATEMENT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL THAT HE, LUCIO, NEVER ENGAGED IN "INTERNAL DEMAGOGUERY" MAY HAVE BEEN REFLECTION OF SAME CONCERN.

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LIKEWISE JULIO PRADO TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 13 THAT RODRIGUEZ ADDRESS WAS DIVISIVE, EXCESSIVELY CRITICAL OF US AND AN INAPPROPRIATE SPEECH FOR A CHIEF OF STATE (SEE QUITO 7790).

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